

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 9, 1999

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SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I...I am just as uncomfortable as Senator Bromm is with the...only I am uncomfortable with the Wehrbein amendment. I...one of the main things that happened when I was campaigning in 1998 were that many, many people in my district complained that they were no longer eligible for homestead exemption. And one of my promises was that I would support homestead exemption. And so I think we have the money to do this, and I think it's the right thing to do. And I urge you to not vote for the Wehrbein amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Further debate on the Wehrbein amendment? Senator Beutler, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, members of the Legislature, unfortunately I can't tell you how the amendment was constructed or why in its particular way. I think that had to do with conversations that were had with Senator Preister, whose original bill, you might recall, did not even as much as this bill would do with the Wehrbein amendment. Is that not correct, Senator? His bill dealt, originally, with the income eligibility amounts, and those are being kept in. And we have added then to that Senator Chris Peterson's bill, as I understand it. And...and so then the matter grew beyond that. And I'm not exactly sure where the additional provisions that are being deleted by the Wehrbein amendment came from, but is being scaled back at least to the suggestions that have been made by members of this body. And that's basically what would be in the bill after the Wehrbein amendment, should you adopt it. It is very hard to predict exactly at this point whether there is money available for this in its larger form or not. I think it's very doubtful, but answering that question depends on a number of other questions or attitudes that you may or may not have with regard to whether we should spend all of the money that's available. Do you want to go back out to the public and have the newspapers crying out that we spent every dime that was available instead of putting some in our reserve or saving some of all this money? If you want to have the alternative of thinking about something like that, a bill like this, and all the A bills, in their larger forms, are going to create a lot of pressure, a lot of pressure. And you need to think about the